



*Nemagraptus* from the Womble Shale at Crystal Springs. Twice natural size. From *Fossils of Arkansas*.

### Graptolites (Lower Ordovician –Lower Devonian) Order Graptoloidea

Graptolites (see figures below) are the remains of extinct marine animals that floated about in the early to middle Paleozoic seas. Individual animals lived in tiny cups positioned in rows along slender stems. The stems of some had a single row of cups, whereas other types had several rows (*Fossils of Arkansas*). They are preserved as thin carbon impressions on dark shales of the Ouachita Mountains Region. They can also be found in the Arkansas Novaculite or less commonly, in Ordovician dolostones in northern Arkansas. The graptolites were floating organisms which sank to the bottom of the sea floor after death.



Graptolites from the Womble Shale at Crystal Springs from *Fossils of Arkansas* by Tom Freeman



Graptolites from the Womble Shale.



Graptolites from the Womble Shale near Paron, Arkansas

References:

Freeman, Tom, 1966, Fossils of Arkansas: Arkansas Geological Commission Bulletin 22, 53 p., 12 pls., 15 figs., 1 map.